



# Bonner County

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DEPT. OF LABOR

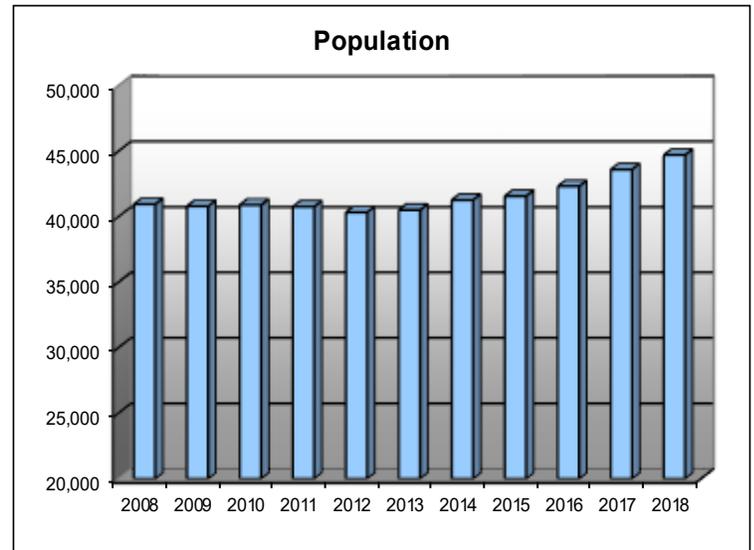
April 2019

## Workforce Trends

### Population

Bonner County has experienced steady population growth. Its beauty, recreational opportunities and quality of life attracted thousands of new residents. From 2008 to 2018, the county's population grew 9 percent from 40,966 to 44,727 while Idaho's population grew 14.3 percent and the U.S. population grew 7.6 percent. The county also has hundreds of summer residents.

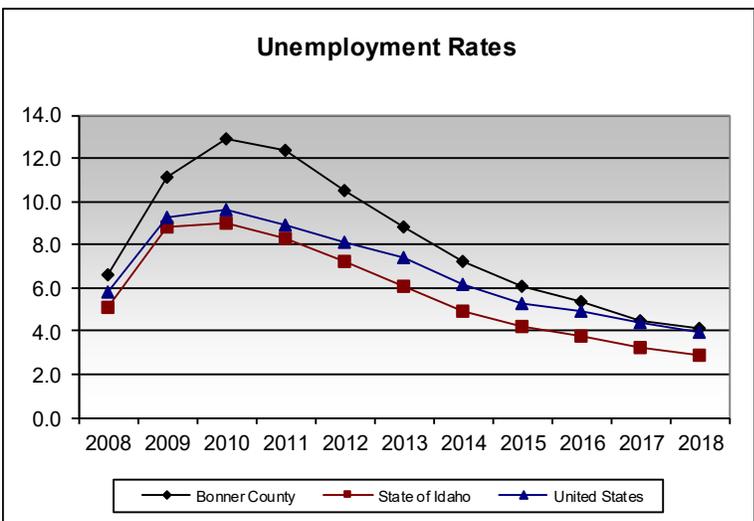
Sandpoint, the county seat, had a population of 8,390 in 2017. Surrounding populations include 1,107 in Ponderay, 834 in Kootenai and 735 in Dover. The largest city west of Sandpoint, Priest River, has 1,811 residents. Clark Fork with 561 residents is the largest town to the east.



### Labor Force & Employment

Bonner County has enjoyed considerable success in diversifying and expanding its economy. Manufacturing jobs rose 27 percent from 1,486 in 2000 to 1,880 in 2010 while they fell 26 percent statewide. The aerospace sector has taken off in Bonner County with companies like Aerocet, Quest Aircraft, Cygnus and Tamarack Aerospace Group. Also contributing to the expansion were Litehouse salad dressings, Unicep Packaging plastic applicators, Thorne Research's nutritional supplements, Diedrich's coffee-roasting machines and Encoder Products electronics. But the recession claimed nearly 450 manufacturing jobs. The county's mainstay, sawmills, have been suffering from low prices. Since 2007, the Priest River area has lost more than 450 sawmill and logging jobs.

The development of Schweitzer Mountain Resort and Sandpoint's reputation as a haven for the arts contributed to tourism growth. Schweitzer's expansions since 1990 have boosted winter employment at local motels, restaurants and



stores. But as important as the winter tourism is, the summer brings even more tourists.

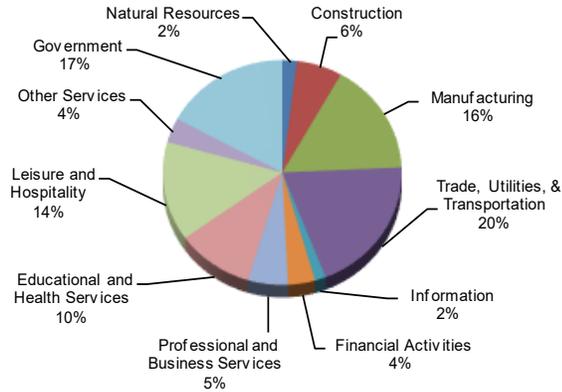
The largest private employers are Litehouse Inc, a manufacturer of salad dressing and related products headquartered in Sandpoint, and Walmart, major retail outlet located in Sandpoint.

The timber industry's troubles, steep drops in construction and other effects of the recession are slowing the local economy. However, the county continues to lay the foundation for strong growth in the future.

Labor Force	Mar 18	Mar 19
Civilian Labor Force	19,648	19,576
Total Employment	18,872	18,781
Unemployed	776	795
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	4.1
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.9	2.9
U.S. % Unemployed	4.0	3.8

Labor Force	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Civilian Labor Force	20,417	20,958	19,494	19,036	18,597	18,265	18,228	18,524	18,851	19,131	19,610
Unemployment	1,354	2,328	2,516	2,352	1,948	1,606	1,312	1,120	1,017	859	803
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.6	11.1	12.9	12.4	10.5	8.8	7.2	6.0	5.4	4.5	4.1
Employment	19,063	18,630	16,978	16,685	16,649	16,658	16,916	17,405	17,835	18,272	18,807

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2017



## Economic Development

The Bonner County Economic Development Corp. and the Priest River Development Corp. are working to bring more jobs to the county. They can show potential employers the county's high quality of life, excellent business climate and low business costs.

The county's growing population and ever-growing number of tourists benefit many retail and service businesses. Construction and retail experienced a decrease in the number of jobs over the past decade. With the exception of agriculture, all industries showed growth over the past year.

## Major Employers

Bonner General Hospital
Lake Pend Oreille School District
Litehouse (manufacturer)
Thorne Research
Schweitzer Mountain Resort
Life Care Center (Skilled Nursing Facility)
Idaho Forest Group
Wal-Mart

North Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Assemblers	\$10.18	\$12.20
Bookkeepers	\$11.31	\$16.88
Carpenters, Journey-level	\$10.44	\$17.74
Cashiers	\$8.25	\$9.95
Clerks, General Office	\$9.79	\$13.59
Clerks, Retail	\$9.35	\$11.58
Cooks, Restaurant	\$10.22	\$11.85
Janitors	\$9.46	\$11.59
Laborers, General	\$10.88	\$14.66
Millwrights	\$17.53	\$17.71
Nurses, Registered	\$23.06	\$33.41
Sawmill Workers	\$14.50	\$22.77
Secretaries, General	\$11.34	\$15.31
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$15.45	\$20.54

\* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov).

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2007, 2016 & 2017	2007		2016		2017	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
<b>Total Covered Wages</b>	14,716	\$30,562	13,471	\$33,799	13,857	\$34,989
<b>Agriculture</b>	243	\$30,705	221	\$36,609	215	\$37,118
<b>Mining</b>	154	\$43,869	114	\$61,106	124	\$59,258
<b>Construction</b>	1,422	\$29,424	679	\$33,591	760	\$34,119
<b>Manufacturing</b>	2,321	\$34,929	2,281	\$44,449	2,285	\$45,545
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	3,231	\$34,172	2,701	\$30,976	2,703	\$32,053
<b>Information</b>	173	\$35,819	200	\$48,344	210	\$52,956
<b>Financial Activities</b>	589	\$39,425	464	\$40,274	492	\$43,188
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	867	\$39,684	701	\$36,542	720	\$42,073
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	1,106	\$26,777	1,428	\$28,694	1,467	\$29,216
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	1,845	\$13,325	1,848	\$16,909	2,004	\$17,530
<b>Other Services</b>	428	\$20,440	441	\$25,654	450	\$28,139
<b>Government</b>	2,338	\$32,274	2,394	\$39,646	2,427	\$41,016

Per Capita Income	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Bonner County</b>	\$30,165	\$29,296	\$29,803	\$31,717	\$33,126	\$33,428	\$34,589	\$36,866	\$38,226	\$39,310
<b>State of Idaho</b>	\$32,646	\$31,142	\$31,921	\$33,503	\$35,187	\$36,167	\$37,792	\$39,780	\$40,508	\$41,826
<b>United States</b>	\$40,904	\$39,284	\$40,545	\$42,727	\$44,582	\$44,826	\$47,025	\$48,940	\$49,831	\$51,640

Information provided by Bureau Economic Analysis



This county is served by the office listed below:  
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